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*Corporation Accounting.* By R. J. BENNETT. Ronald Accounting Series. (New York: The Ronald Press Company. 1916. Pp. xxi, 563. \$2.70.)

This volume, as stated by the author in the preface, is concerned with "certain transactions, accounts, and entries employed in corporation accounting which are either peculiar to the corporation, or so seldom encountered elsewhere, that they may properly be termed distinctive."

Reading farther in the preface we are reminded that: "as stocks of differing characteristics are subscribed for, issued on varying terms, forfeited, donated, resold or cancelled; as bonds of different classes are issued, sold, purchased or redeemed at maturity; as sinking funds and reserves are set up for the protection and redemption of these bonds; as dividends are declared or assessments are levied; as companies are reorganized, liquidated, or become insolvent, the accountant is confronted with difficult problems—problems which frequently, because of the magnitude of the amounts involved, or because of the legal consequences of error, call for a care and accuracy of treatment beyond the ordinary."

The volume faithfully fulfils the intent of presenting adequate solutions and setting forth the established accounting practice for dealing with such problems. It is conspicuous for its systematic and orderly arrangement, beginning with the organization of a corporation and concluding with receiverships and dissolution. The exposition and the illustrative material have been prepared with a commendable thoroughness, no doubt reflecting the author's experience as a teacher of accountancy. Indeed, it seems hardly possible that such a completeness of detail could have been developed in any other way.

A work on corporation accounting provides an opportunity for extended comments on such matters as charters, by-laws, notices of meetings, corporate records, and numerous other details which are not literally a part of an accountant's duties. Owing to the fact that the same individual will in many corporations serve as secretary as well as an accountant or treasurer, these comments in regard to procedure will be to many readers just as interesting and valuable as the details in regard to accounting. There are necessarily many references to corporation law, and although the practice and the rules are generally well established in regard to the points mentioned, references to legal authors or decisions would add authority to many of the author's statements.

Throughout the volume the reader encounters the familiar and helpful device of hypothetical corporations which exist only on the author's pages, and solely for the purpose of illustrating his views. But Mr. Bennett has given added authority and interest to many of his observations by frequent citations from some of the best known corporations in the United States, such as The Pennsylvania Railroad, Packard Motor Car Company, Victor Talking Machine Company, Royal Baking Powder Company, and others.

In the preface and throughout the volume there is abundant recognition of alternatives of procedure. The author explains and usually illustrates all the different ways in which the accounting entries may be made and indicates what is thought to be gained by one course or another. The accounting theory which appears in the volume is sound and yet never dogmatic.

A feature of this volume which other authors might follow to advantage when opportunity permits, is the incorporation of extended quotations from well-known authors on special topics. Thus Mr. Bennett has arranged to reproduce a long quotation on "Bond discount and premiums" from Mr. A. Lowes Dickinson's well-known volume *Accounting Practice and Procedure*, and refers his readers to Charles E. Sprague's *The Accountancy of Investments* for details on sinking fund calculations, and to Robert H. Montgomery's *Auditing Theory and Practice* for details of audit procedure and reports.

Basing his opinion on a fairly wide acquaintance with the literature of accountancy published in English, the reviewer would state that Mr. Bennett's volume will come to take rank with the three well and favorably known volumes mentioned in the preceding paragraph as among the first ten or a dozen titles that should be owned by every one seriously interested in accountancy. The arrangement of the book makes it readily adaptable for general reference by corporation officers and accountants. As the author no doubt intended, it can be used to advantage in a class of advanced accounting studying corporation forms and problems.

When a new edition is prepared, it is to be hoped that more systematic and thorough attention will be given to the index, for, excellent as it is, it proved disappointing to the reviewer on several references, some of which should obviously appear in their proper alphabetical order.

CLINTON H. SCOVELL.